sions, as in the case of the typical species. The leaves also differ quite perceptibly, being much larger for the same age in the variation, and having larger petioles, both for the leaf proper and for the leaflets. The margins are more strongly serrate, tending to double serrate. The internodes of the stem are much longer in the variety, causing the leaves to be fewer and more scattered. The nodes are more swollen, as are the leaf petioles at the base, making a much larger leaf scar, but the axillary buds are smaller. The stem of the type species is quite rough, furrowed, and warty, especially as it grows older, while the variety is much smoother. The fruit of the variety is more abundant, berries larger, and in more open corymbs.

In short, the whole aspect of the variety is more grape-like, and for this reason we suggest the name *A. quinquefolia*, var. *vitacea*.

NOTES ON "MOUNTAIN LEATHER," FROM RED ROCK CAÑON, COLORADO.

BY E. B. KNERR.

The red sandstone of the Red Rock Cañon, Colorado, along the Colorado Midland railroad, is extensively quarried for building purposes. In the seams and joints of this rock may be found a tenacious asbestos or paper-like mineral, known as "mountain leather." When the seam is large, allowing of a thicker deposit, the mineral is rather spongy, and is then known as "mountain cork." An analysis of the mineral gave the composition as follows:

SiO_2	59.02
Al_2O_3	8.51
MgO	9.57
K_2O	.81
Na_2O	4.28
H_2O	18.21
	100.40

RECENT ADVANCES IN THE STUDY OF THE NERVOUS SYSTEM.

BY C. JUDSON HERRICK, OTTAWA.

The past decade has been a period of unparalleled activity in the study of the nervous system, both human and comparative. Investigation has appreciated more and more the value of the latter method. The points mentioned in this brief review are almost all the direct outgrowths of improved histological and embryological methods.

One of the most valuable results of these studies has been the establishment of safe homologies through the entire series of vertebrates, from the fish to man. The commissures have naturally received especial attention. The callosum, formerly supposed to belong exclusively to the higher mammals, has, in recent years, been found by various observers in the kangaroo, a few birds, serpents, and batrachians. About two years ago, it was found by my brother in the alligator,* and by him last year in the opossum, strongly developed.† Last winter, in working up material col-

*Notes on the Brain of the Alligator, by C. L. Herrick, Journal of Cincinnati Society of Natural History, 1890.

†Journal of Comparative Neurology, February, 1892.